

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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ADAMS BILL WILL BRING MORE FUNDING FOR WASTE TIRE CLEAN UP, SCRAP TIRE GRANTS

INDIANAPOLIS -- The House Committee on Environmental Affairs has passed House Bill 1381, legislation coauthored by State Rep. Tiny Adams (D-Muncie) that will help clean up the mess caused by waste tires.

House Bill 1381 will increase the fee on new tires from 25 cents to \$1. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management will receive 25 percent of the money collected from this fee, approximately \$1.6 million. The Indiana Department of Commerce will receive the remaining 75 percent, or \$4.8 million.

All money generated by the fee on new tires will be used for waste tire clean up and to encourage the development of the reuse market for waste tires via grants, known as Scrap Tire Grants.

"This is an issue that really hits home for Delaware County," said Adams. "We have had problems with tire fires before, which give off incredibly hazardous chemicals that are harmful to the environment and to peoples' health. The increase in this fee will work to drastically reduce the number of tire fires in Indiana."

The problems that are created by tire fires are numerous. The oil and residues that are given off when a tire is burning continually feed the fire, making it very difficult to put out the flames. Also, these same chemicals are absorbed into the soil and groundwater, contaminating them with carcinogens, petroleum distillates and other toxins.

Tire dumps and improperly discarded tires also act as breeding grounds for mosquitoes, rodents and other pests. These insects and animals can transmit diseases, such as West Nile Virus or La Crosse encephalitis, to humans.

"Improperly disposed tires create a myriad of problems, such as pollution and disease, and blight the beautiful landscape of Indiana," said Adams. "We need to stop this problem and House Bill 1381 will accomplish this."

House Bill 1381 now moves to the full House for further consideration.